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C O N F I D E N T I A L YEREVAN 000532

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [OPDC](#) [KG](#) [AM](#) [RU](#)

SUBJECT: GOAM DEFERS TO PUTIN COMMENTS ON KYRGYZSTAN

REF: SECSTATE 52126

Classified By: DCM A.F. Godfrey for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

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SUMMARY  
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[11.](#) (C) The GOAM offered limited public reaction to the unrest in Kyrgyzstan, due to the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin which has dominated both headlines and GOAM attention. During a March 25 press conference, President Robert Kocharian deferred outright to Putin on the Kyrgyzstan issue. Local media seized on Putin's comments that Russia would accept Kyrgyz President Akayev were he to seek refuge in Russia and Putin's statement that the opposition leaders were "well known" to the Russians. Private comments by FM Vartan Oskanian and mid-level contacts at the MFA, however, have indicated unanimous surprise about the speed of events in Kyrgyzstan and concern about "who's in charge" in the country. In reaction to USG talking points, MFA Americas Desk Officer said the MFA was waiting for a "better sense of how CIS neighbors would react" before venturing further on the subject. She told us, however, that the point in our demarche regarding support for the OSCE mission would be woven into the draft GOAM statement. End summary.

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VISITING PUTIN: "THESE PEOPLE ARE WELL KNOWN TO US"  
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[12.](#) (C) The GOAM made only a limited public reaction to the unrest in Kyrgyzstan. The visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin has dominated headlines and GOAM resources. During a March 25 press conference, President Robert Kocharian deferred outright to President Putin on the Kyrgyzstan issue. Local media seized on President Putin's comments that Russia would accept Krgyz President Akayev were he to seek refuge in Russia and that the opposition leaders were "well known" to the Russians. Neither the Presidential nor MFA news services had posted official statements on the unrest in Kyrgyzstan as of 4:30p.m. local time.

[13.](#) (C) In reaction to USG talking points on the subject, MFA Americas Desk Officer said the MFA was waiting for a "better sense of how CIS neighbors would react" before venturing further on the subject. She told us, however, that the point in our demarche regarding support for the OSCE mission would likely be woven into the draft GOAM statement. Our judgment is that the GOAM would confer with Russia before issuing a statement.

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OSKANIAN: "WE DON'T KNOW THESE PEOPLE"  
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[14.](#) (C) Contrasting with President Putin's statement about the opposition leaders in Kyrgyzstan, FM Vartan Oskanian told us privately March 24 during a meeting with the Ambassador and later during a USG reception that the GOAM was surprised by the unrest in Kyrgyzstan and said "We don't know these people so we don't quite yet know what to think." Oskanian made particular mention of the speed of the events and said the GOAM was watching the situation with interest and was hoping it would end without violence.

EVANS